

LIBRARY BOARD BULLETIN

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND USA

COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARINGS

Wear blue and bring a library book.

Our identifier will be clear and simple. Wear something blue—blouse, shirt, scarf, vest, hat. Also, bring a library book and keep it visible for the councilmembers and audience.

Hearing dates:

April 13,14,15, and 16, 2009 at 7:00pm and
April 15, 2009 at 1:30pm.

Location:

Council Office Building, Council Hearing
Room 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD
20850

Special points of interest:

- **County Council Budget Hearings**
- **LAC Award Applications due April 1.**
- **Hold the Date: 2nd Annual Library Board/ LAC meeting - June 13, 2009 at Montgomery College, Germantown**
- **Calendar of Events**
- **Talking Points**

LAC Awards

APRIL 1—APPLICATIONS ARE DUE

This is the time for ALL LACs to seize the opportunity to submit their award applications for special recognition of achievements and our beautiful glass trophy suitable for display at the Branch represented by the LAC.

**AWARD
APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE**

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting	2
Calendar of Events	2
Budget Talking Points	3
Questions: Meeting Minutes	4
Contact Us	4

You are Invited

Second Annual Meeting

Montgomery County Library Board/Library Advisory Committees

June 13, 2009 8:30 am-1 pm

Come to discuss strategies to thrive in a depressed economy.

Focus: Planning for the Future of Libraries and Sharing Resources among Libraries

Location: Montgomery College, Germantown Campus, Globe Hall.

Time: 8:30am registration and refreshments

Program: Two Workshops, Lunch, Awards Ceremony and Open Session.

Parking: Plentiful and free

Displays: LAC materials Virtual Services Branch

Program Speakers:

Jim Rettig, President, American Library Association

Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director, American Library Association,

Calendar of Events 2009

April 1. LAC Awards Submission due. The criteria and application are available on the website and on the electronic version of this Newsletter. Contact us with any retrieval problems.

June 13. 2nd Annual Meeting, (2nd Saturday in June), 8:30am-1pm.

Location: Montgomery College, Germantown campus, Globe Hall.

Time: 8:30am registration and refreshments

Program: Two Workshops, Awards Ceremony and Open Session.

Parking: Plentiful and free

****Bring LAC materials to display and share with all LACs and attendees.**

November 18. Library Board/LAC/FOL Joint meeting

Note: The usual meeting day is the 2nd Wednesday in November, which in 2009 is Veterans Day. Therefore, we'll meet on the 3rd Wednesday (November 18th).

The Library Board and LACs work together to promote and advocate for the Montgomery County Public Library System by working closely with the library community

Talking Points and

Value

In a tight economy, our county library use goes up.

A recent Montgomery County resident survey revealed our libraries received a 7.39 on a 9-point scale for the average service category.

Voters love libraries and come for voter registration, computer use, programs, and community meetings.

Libraries are ubiquitous and touch all aspects of the county, are visible and represent a vocal, well-connected community.

During an economic downturn, people turn to libraries for services. In FY08, MCPL had 9M visits with 88% of visitors at least once per month. **In January, 09 we have fewer staff, programs, materials, and longer lines.**

Cost

The cuts of the 1990s have never been recovered.

Comparatively, the MCPL budget is a very small percentage of the total budget. The risk of cutting dollars is the loss of good will, confidence, and trust from county residents and library.

What Do We Want

Library users to have continued access to materials and programs.

Retain Programs: after school, summer, teens, English-as-a-Second Language, Seniors, the disabled, correctional center, job search, build professional skills.

Computer availability at times of heavy usage and not turn people away.

Keep current library hours.

To assist the community with life issues such as finance, health, and business, etc.

From the Chair



Lois Neuman, Chair,
Library Board

Greetings from the Library Board.

As you know, our economy faces lean years and we expect budget cuts.

- our hours to stay as they are,
- all of our branches to stay as they are, and
- our staff to be cut no further.

Use the talking points (page 3) and attend **County Council Budget Hearings** (page 1) to articulate your support of the library system. Be sure to wear blue and prominently display your library book. During the next budget year, we will examine roles our volunteers can take to assist in the excellent programs of which we are so proud. Expect to hear more as the dialogue continues. We also expect to explore the concept of Libraries of the Future.

Be sure to attend the **2nd Annual Meeting** to hear and participate in discussions with library leaders. Bring your LAC materials to share with attendees. If your LAC has not yet submitted your award application, the link and Call for **Award Applications** appear on page 1. And finally, we offer suggestions for **LAC meeting minutes** (page 4).

The Board members and I look forward to seeing you at the events and LAC meetings.

We are realistic and know the Library system will not be spared. Our major concern is to maintain the quality service our customers expect.

Library Board Bulletin

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND USA

Questions

LAC Minutes

The Board reviewed mission and function of the Board committees, the Library Advisory Committees (LAC) that included information presented by the LACs in 2007-2008. One theme that emerged was confusion about fundraising activities, such as book sales, and where that belonged in the LAC mission.

Clearly, selected events require funding but technically, the LACs do not fundraise. By law, the Board and LACs advise the Director of Libraries and advocate on behalf of the library branch and system.

Since most, if not all, of our LAC members wear both hats of LAC (public sector) and FOL foundation (private sector) and conduct business on behalf of both groups at one meeting, LAC minutes contain discussion and votes on fundraising and financial audits.

To assist in defining and refining activities of LACs and to retain the spirit of enthusiastic volunteerism, the procedure implemented years ago remains relevant – organize two separate agendas and minutes and conduct business accordingly. Some LACs already do this.

To help in defining LAC business, the following is a sample list.

Facilities – renovations, relocation, maintenance, lighting, restrooms, safety, supplies, signage, computer/technology, access, hours, use of space, decoration, temperature, cleanliness, furniture

Collection – availability, reserve, condition of materials, choices, timeliness

Staff – services, responsiveness

Customer Satisfaction – all items on the survey, concerns related to budget cuts, e.g. long wait lines at checkout

Landscaping – grass cutting

Programs – plan, implementation details, evaluation, recommendations

Volunteers – roles and responsibilities

Thanks to those of you who brought this to our attention.
(Refer to the section on Meetings and Minutes in the revised **LAC Handbook** (in process)).

21 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
USA

Phone: 240-777-0016

Fax: 240-777-0014

E-mail:

libraryboard@montgomerycountymd.gov

Members of the Library Board

Montgomery County

Maryland USA

2008-2009

Dr. Gail Bailey, MCPS

Mr. Art Brodsky

Mr. David Chiles

Ms. Paulette Dickerson

Ms. Althea Grey-McKenzie

Dr. Kay K. Kim

Mr. Brian S. Krantz, Vice Chair

Ms. Jill Lewis

Mr. Otto E. Lewis, Jr

Dr. Lois H. Neuman, Chair

Ms. Niyati P. Pandya

